

[Finance, Legislation and Planning Committee (FL&P)]
[Richmond Marriott West; Richmond, VA]
[February 9, 2007]
[9 AM]

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff:	Others:
Gary Dalton, Chair Morris Reese Randy Abernathy Rob Logan Kent Weber Bruce Edwards Ed Rhodes Theresa Guins, MD Pokey Harris Byron Andrews	Mike Player Art Lipscomb Don Barklage	Gary Brown Scott Winston Paul Sharpe Jodi Kuhn Rohn Brown Beth Singer Tim Perkins Michael Berg	Karen Wagner Kevin McGinnis Jim Chandler Jennie Collins Melinda Duncan

Topic/Subject		Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Meeting Minutes	The minutes from the September 29, 2006 meeting of FL&P were reviewed and approved. There were no additions, deletions or changes to the draft minutes.	The minutes were approved by unanimously by the members of the committee.
Virginia Office of EMS Update	<p>Gary Brown and Scott Winston provided a brief update on current activities at OEMS. A full report will be provided at the EMS Advisory Board meeting.</p> <p>OEMS Staff Update (Amanda Davis-new Grants Administrator, Wanda Street-new Program Support Technician, Jacqueline Hunter-new ALS Training Funds Specialist) Application deadline for Certification Examiner Coordinator is Friday, Feb. 9</p> <p>Regional EMS Council study awarded to ASMI, Inc. Mr. Kevin McGinnis is the principal investigator. Mr. McGinnis is a former State EMS Director in Maine, a Program Advisor for</p>	N/A

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	<p>the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and a former regional EMS Council Executive Director. Mr. McGinnis was introduced to the committee members and he provided a brief overview of study design.</p>	
<p>2007 Legislative Report</p>	<p>Mr. Ed Rhodes provided an update on selected legislation from the 2007 session of the Virginia General Assembly.</p> <p>VAVRS Safe Driving clinic without fees. Bill has passed the Senate unopposed.</p> <p>VOLSAP - Members have invested \$600K. State budget has not funded. \$78K/year for administrative costs. Will require \$2 to \$3 M to satisfy state obligation. Budget amendment will be required. <i>(No budget amendment was introduced during the 2007 session.)</i></p> <p>VPFF : Top priority funding for DFP <i>(Bill stricken from the docket. Budget amendment did not pass)</i></p> <p>Claims bill to cover child who contracted disease from Public Safety provider in Fairfax, Coverage for Dependents <i>(Did not pass. Referred to Fairfax County).</i></p> <p>Stop light bill (VDOT- Opticom is a local option. VDOT will install, contingent upon funding) <i>(No bill was introduced to address this measure).</i></p> <p>HB 1348 – Bill submitted by dog handlers (VA SAR Council) VDEM will take over SAR. VDEM will not support bill unless all stakeholders are involved. (carry over bill) Provide positions in VDEM for control of scope of operation and training. Interferes with local governmental control. All key stakeholders have not been included in discussions. <i>(No bill was introduced to address this measure).</i></p> <p>VAGEMSA (Abernathy) Multi-Line Telephone Bill –1603 911 information to show location and number calling of exact location instead of a single building where telephone systems may encompass very large buildings of a complex of buildings that share a single telephone system. <i>((S) Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor)</i></p> <p>Fingerprinting of career and volunteer EMS personnel. NCIC and FBI background check. Applicant will pay the fee associated with fingerprint. Concern – who is going to keep the</p>	

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	<p>information returned by FBI? OEMS could keep background checks. It was suggested a local EMS agency submit request, results sent to OEMS, forwarded to EMS agency. VCIN (\$24); NCIC (\$36) <i>(No bill was introduced to address this measure).</i></p> <p>Mr. Rhodes reported HB 2161 introduced by Delegate O'Bannon related to adding provisions for additional performance improvement measures and the statewide Trauma Triage Plan to be updated triennially was recognized as exemplary legislation by the Speaker of the House.</p> <p>SB 1324 related to authorization of licensed Paramedics to engage in the practice of professional nursing was passed by indefinitely in the Senate Education and Health committee.</p> <p>SB 958 introduced by Sen. Qualye to allow ALS certified EMS personnel to practice without an EMT-B on board was stricken from the docket.</p> <p>HJ 743 related to study incentives for fire and rescued squad volunteers in an effort to recruit and retain qualified individuals has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules.</p> <p>Mr. Rhodes reported several bills that would repeal the motorcycle helmet law in Virginia have been defeated.</p> <p>Legislation to move the Office of the Fire Marshal from the Dept. of Housing and Community Development to the Dept. of Fire Programs effective July 1, 2008 has passed.</p> <p>ODEMSA's budget amendment request to implement a 12 lead EKG project (STEMI pilot in the Richmond Metro area) was not funded.</p>	
EMS Advisory Board Retreat	<p>Karen Wagner provided a summary of the EMS Advisory Board Retreat held in Richmond on January 5. The purpose of the Retreat was to discuss the location and placement of the Office of EMS within state government. Ms. Wagner reported there was a wide representation from key stakeholder groups at the meeting. Everyone was</p>	

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	<p>given an opportunity to participate in the discussions and voice their opinions. However, due to the large number of people and varying opinions, it was difficult to develop consensus at the meeting. Ms. Wagner charged the FL&P Committee to develop a position paper with recommendations and identify next steps to take action and present this information to the EMS Advisory Board at their May, 18 meeting.</p> <p>It was pointed out there needed to be more one-on-one discussions with key stakeholders and organizations within the EMS system. Specifically, the Medical Society of Virginia was mentioned. The committee needs to determine if there are there other points, suggestions or recommendations that did not come out in the retreat?</p> <p>Bruce Edwards provided an excellent review of previous discussions that have occurred regarding the placement of the Office of EMS within state government, including initial discussions that began when Dr. Robert Powell was chair of the EMS Advisory Board. There appears to be a lot of misunderstanding about the issues and implications of a possible move involving the Office of EMS. The straw vote taken at the retreat reflected strong support from the medical community to leave OEMS within the health department. The medical community is concerned that if OEMS is not under the health department there will be a loss in interest, influence and focus related to health care issues. However, EMS agencies have never relied on VDH for medical direction or authorization and privileges to practice. It was pointed out that in the mid 1990's the Medical Society of Virginia made a strong statement about keeping OEMS within the health department and was instrumental in defeating efforts to move OEMS.</p> <p>In general, there is a lack of understanding about how state government is structured. There needs to be an educational effort to get people to understand where OEMS is located within state government, why a concern exists about where OEMS is located, and what will be the best alignment for EMS in VA.</p> <p>Medical direction can be the greatest proponent for EMS. Medical directors should be more effective leaders and advocates to move OEMS or improve the position of EMS</p>	

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	<p>in VDH.</p> <p>Information needs to be presented to the Medical Direction Committee (MDC) for consideration. It was noted that at the January 18 meeting of MDC a motion to keep OEMS in VDH was tabled.</p> <p>Rob Logan stated there are a lot of unanswered questions (fiscal impact, staffing impact, etc.) The two most likely choices are to make improvements and fix the current problems that exist or leave VDH.</p> <p>Randy Abernathy stated we need to develop a timeline to get something done. We should not suffer from the syndrome of paralysis by analysis. The larger question of where first responders should be located within state government should be answered. VDH does not understand the role and purpose of EMS in public health and safety.</p> <p>Gary Brown requested Mr. Kevin McGinnis, consultant from ASMI to remark about his experiences in Maine. Mr. McGinnis stated EMS was moved out of the health department in Maine in the late 1980's. However, in Maine, the EMS Board had greater authority and the Commissioner of Health was powerless to keep EMS in the department. The EMS Board in Maine reports directly to the Governor.</p> <p>State structure should reflect and support how public safety is delivered at the local level. OEMS should be placed within state government based on considerations related to administration, function, and operational effectiveness and efficiency.</p> <p>Chairman Dalton assigned selected members of the FL&P Committee to contact members of the EMS Advisory Board to determine the position of the organizations they represent related to the location of OEMS within state government. Committee members were advised to obtain comments verbally or in writing.</p> <p>Each committee member will ask the same question when they contact members of the EMS Advisory Board. <i>What questions or concerns does your organization have for this committee to address regarding the location of OEMS within state government?</i></p>	<p>Rob Logan and Bruce Edwards were assigned the task of developing an educational presentation and presenting information to the members of the Medical Direction Committee on April 12. Presentation will include a description of the organizational structure of state government and where OEMS is placed.</p> <p><u>Gary Dalton:</u> Karen Alsop, Buddy Bish. <u>Randy Abernathy:</u> Jennie Collins, Kevin Dillard, Gary Critzer. <u>Theresa Guins:</u> Dr. James Dudley, Dr. Kim Mitchell, Dr. Carl Wentzel.</p>

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	<p>Contacts will be made between March 15 – 20. Each committee member will advise their respective contacts in advance that they will be calling during this specified time period in order to give them time to solicit input from the organization they represent.</p> <p>A special called meeting of the FL&P Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 27 at 10 AM at the VAVRS Headquarters in Oilville, VA to discuss all comments and remarks related to the location of OEMS within state government and to develop a recommendation to be presented to the EMS Advisory Board at the May 18 meeting.</p>	<p><u>Bruce Edwards</u>: Anthony Wilson, David Barrick.</p> <p><u>Pokey Harris</u>: Linda Johnson, May Fox.</p> <p><u>Morris Reece</u>: Lori Moore-Merrell, Dr. Rao Ivatury.</p> <p><u>Rob Logan</u>: Linda Sayles, Doug Young.</p> <p><u>Byron Andrews</u>: Bob Crowder, Coan Agee.</p>
Meeting Minutes	Chairman Dalton advised committee members that draft minutes for every FL&P committee meeting appear on the Regulatory Town Hall within 10 work days following the meeting. Chairman Dalton will work with OEMS staff to distribute the meeting minutes to every member in a timely fashion.	
Next Meeting	Tuesday, March 27 at 10 AM at the VAVRS Headquarters in Oilville, VA.	